

JOINT PARTNERSHIP SPEEDS DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD SERVICE FRYER

ABOUT LEADER ENGINEERING FABRICATION INC. Located in Napoleon, Ohio, Leader Engineering Fabrication, Inc. fabricates custom machinery and equipment for industrial food processing plants. With more than 40 skilled associates and engineers, the company designs, builds, and installs a wide range of quality equipment for industries such as pork processors, canned operations, and fresh and frozen food operations.

THE CHALLENGE. Leader Engineering Fabrication is a longstanding member of the Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) consortium. CIFT is part of the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which is part of the MEP National Network. Leader Engineering Fabrication has consulted on a number of projects with nearly a half-dozen CIFT members, including another foodservice equipment services company, Henny Penny. Henny Penny manufactures fryers, holding cabinets, rotisserie, and combi ovens for some of the industry's most demanding, high-volume kitchens. CIFT connected the two companies so that Leader Engineering Fabrication could assist Henny Penny with the development of a new frying unit that the company needed to produce quickly.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Henny Penny and Leader Engineering Fabrication collaborated on a CIFT Joint Member Project in order to speed the development process of the new frying unit. First, the two companies met and discussed the features they desired in an automated fryer. Based on these discussions, Leader Engineering Fabrication developed three concept designs to present to Henny Penny, and the company chose one design to test for compatibility with an automated frying unit.

Next, Leader Engineering Fabrication engineers designed and constructed an apparatus based on the selected concept, then tested it to confirm that it met compatibility requirements with the automated fryer. Results of the testing showed that the concept was viable, and the company prepared for more testing to develop specifications for different products and quantities. Leadership Engineering made significant investments in plant, equipment, systems, and workforce improvements through the project, and increased sales.

"CIFT is an excellent avenue that enables Leader Engineering to connect with companies that are in need of our custom food equipment services. We help solve these companies' issues in manufacturing and technology."

-Rick Baden, Production Engineer

RESULTS



Invested **\$500,000** in plant or equipment



Additional investment of **\$250,000** in skills training and other areas of business



Increased sales by **\$174,000**

CONTACT US



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www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_mep.htm



**Manufacturing
Extension Partnership**